

The Wethersfield Historic District Commission held a Public Hearing on April 9, 2013 at the Wethersfield Town Hall, Town Manager's Conference Room – First Floor, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield, Connecticut.

Members Present: Robert Garrey, Chairperson
Michael Rell, Vice Chairperson
Cynthia Greenblatt, Clerk
Mark Raymond
Lisa Wurzer, Alternate
Douglas Ovian, Alternate
Paul Courchaine, Alternate

Members Absent: John Maycock

Also Present: Kristin Stearley, Historic District Coordinator
Linda Messina, Recording Secretary

Commissioner Garrey called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM, and read the opening comments. Commissioner Greenblatt, Clerk, read the Legal Notice as it appeared in the *Rare Reminder* on March 28, 2013.

APPLICATION NO. 4133-13. Damir Akaratovic seeks to replace the aluminum siding with vinyl siding at 276 Middletown Avenue.

Damir Akaratovic, 276 Middletown Avenue, appeared before the Commission. He would like to replace the aluminum siding with vinyl siding. He would like to use wood grain 4.5" Dutch lap vinyl siding in the color Colonial Yellow. He will use white trim with 4" wide white corners. He isn't sure yet if the shutters will be put back, but they probably will be re-used and painted white. He will re-use the existing gutters. The awning no longer exists. Photos of surrounding houses with white trim and vinyl siding were submitted.

Commissioner Garrey asked whether there was anyone wishing to speak in favor or in opposition to this application. There being no one, this portion of the hearing was declared closed.

APPLICATION NO. 4134-13. James Bankowski seeks to construct a 10'x12' wood deck at 94 Hartford Avenue.

James Bankowski, 94 Hartford Avenue, appeared before the Commission. The deck will actually be 12'x12'. Drawings were submitted. There will be two posts – one each on the northeast and southwest corners. The deck is not attached to the house. It will be within the fence in the pool area (in the center of the yard). The deck will have one step up from the patio. He will use all pressure treated wood. It will be a platform deck with no rails. There will be fascia board around the bottom of the deck. The posts will be 8" round decorative pillars, no greater than 4' high, but probably a lot less than 4' high.

Commissioner Garrey asked whether there was anyone wishing to speak in favor or in opposition to this application. There being no one, this portion of the hearing was declared closed.

APPLICATION NO. 4135-13. Edward Guzy seeks to retain the replacement of the wood garage door with a steel garage door at 68 Oldham Road.

Joan Burbank, 77 Carriage Drive, Tolland, appeared before the Commission. Last year, the wood garage door was replaced with a wood-grained embossed steel door. It has a standard exterior key lock and handle. The wood garage door was falling apart and needed to be replaced. There is vinyl siding on the house.

Commissioner Garrey asked whether there was anyone wishing to speak in favor or in opposition to this application. There being no one, this portion of the hearing was declared closed.

Upon motion by Commissioner Rell seconded by Commissioner Greenblatt, and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to close the public hearing and to open the public meeting.

Aye: Garrey, Rell, Greenblatt, Raymond, Courchaine

APPLICATION NO. 4133-13. Damir Akaratovic seeks to replace the aluminum siding with vinyl siding at 276 Middletown Avenue.

Upon motion by Commissioner Garrey seconded by Commissioner Greenblatt and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to APPROVE the application as submitted.

Discussion

Commissioner Garrey stated that he agrees with Commissioner Ovan's comment on double lap. He likes that it doesn't have the bend. He hadn't really ever suggested it in place of clapboard to homeowners who didn't request it because he doesn't know that double lap is appropriate to a lot of the buildings that they have done it before, but on this house it will be very successful. You apply from the back forward.

Commissioner Ovan stated that he tended to think that most of the replacement of aluminum with vinyl has not successfully replicated the look of the existing because unsupported vinyl tends to have a curve in it and it doesn't look as crisp as aluminum and most aluminum can be painted. So, typically unless there are other reasons for it going away, he wouldn't approve removal of aluminum for a material that doesn't replicate it like the typical 4" vinyl. However, he is intrigued by the request for Dutch lap and Dutch lap in some ways creates or mitigates against the rolling a little bit because of the bend and it's interesting that he showed the photograph of the garage on Middletown Avenue between the foot monument and Maple. Because it's a similarly scaled building but very different era but similar size and in wood, it looks like it's part of the vernacular. His effort to try to replace the substitute material with another substitute material is especially promising in some ways because he is widening the trim from what was there with aluminum. So with that being said, despite the work already being under way and despite the replacement material not typically being as crisp, because he's going to a different look and because that different look will emulate the native look a little more successfully, he thinks that he could say that if this had come to them before, it would be approvable in his mind so that's how he would distinguish this from other applications and support it. Sometimes you can stipulate that the seam/overlap be staggered and not face the street.

Commissioner Rell stated that by looking at the front of the house, it is broken up with two windows on the north side then it curves in and you have the picture window. It is the sides that would be most impacted with that long run of vinyl siding where you would see some bowing. Again, it's minimal with the windows on the north elevation.

Aye: Garrey, Rell, Greenblatt, Raymond, Courchaine

APPLICATION NO. 4134-13. James Bankowski seeks to construct a 10'x12' wood deck at 94 Hartford Avenue.

Upon motion by Commissioner Rell seconded by Commissioner Greenblatt and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to APPROVE the application as submitted.

Discussion

Commissioner Garrey stated that this is a very simple platform deck. It is a minimal impact.

Commissioner Ovan asked if the height of the posts should be stipulated.

Aye: Garrey, Rell, Greenblatt, Raymond, Courchaine

APPLICATION NO. 4135-13. Edward Guzy seeks to retain the replacement of the wood garage door with a steel garage door at 68 Oldham Road.

Upon motion by Commissioner Garrey seconded by Commissioner Courchaine and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to APPROVE the application as submitted.

Discussion

Commissioner Garrey stated that he agrees and that the Commission has become a little more open minded with garage doors, depending on the house and the area. It's a very simply designed house with vinyl siding and not a lot of decorative element.

Commissioner Ovian stated that the Commission heard a similar application last week. At the time he thought the main issue was is this something the Commission would approve to begin with. The photograph of this particular door made it replicate the look of a raised panel door successfully. Substitute materials aren't necessarily an issue with him as much as how they read and look. He thinks it looks pretty good with the house so he would be inclined to say that this is a particular model which, had he seen it before it went up, he wouldn't know what he knows now, which is how good it looks.

Aye: Garrey, Rell, Greenblatt, Raymond, Courchaine

MINUTES OF MARCH 26, 2013

Upon motion by Commissioner Garrey, seconded by Commissioner Rell and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to APPROVE the minutes of the March 12, 2013 meeting as amended.

Aye: Garrey, Rell, Raymond, Courchaine

Abstain: Greenblatt

OTHER BUSINESS

Public comments on general matters of the Historic District

None.

Report of the Historic District Coordinator

1. Steve Lattarulo was officially announced as the new Chief of the Building Department.
2. This is the busy season. Applications are coming in fast. Kristin has closed the next meeting early because she received 8 applications. She will be limiting applications to 6 – 8 per meeting depending on how detailed the applications are.
3. The Putnam Bridge is now being worked on. The contractor who was awarded that contract is renting 105 Marsh Street and they will be placing a temporary trailer on the property. If anything else goes on the property, the contractor will talk to the HDC as well as the other town departments to obtain approval.
4. There was a Construction Meeting. There was discussion over the grant that Planning and Zoning is trying to obtain to do the whole façade improvement to the Masonic and Comstock Ferre. Something that had come up with the consultant was possibly moving the Belden House to the open lot on Church Street. This was suggested as an option to get parking for the Masonic. Comstock might not be able to participate in this grant because there is talk that Comstock will become a non-profit.

5. Kristin will be on vacation from April 10th through April 22nd. Linda will send out the meeting minutes to all Commissioners and if there are any changes, Kristin will make them and re-send them when she returns from vacation. The packet for the April 23, 2013 meeting will be sent out tomorrow (Wednesday, April 10, 2013).

Correspondence

A letter dated March 31, 2013, was received from John Aforismo of 185 Broad Street, thanking the Commission for their approval of his application at the March 26, 2013 meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Commissioner Courchaine, seconded by Commissioner Rell and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to ADJOURN the meeting at 8:10 PM.

Aye: Garrey, Rell, Greenblatt, Raymond, Courchaine

Respectfully Submitted

TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Cynthia Greenblatt
-Clerk Pro Tem-